

Remarks

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 9, 16, 17 and 19-21 being independent. Claims 1, 3, 8-10, 15, and 17-20 have been amended herein.

Claims 1-5 and 8-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,318,828 (Barbour et al.). Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Barbour et al.. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 1, 9, 19 and 20 recites, inter alia, outputting (or receiving) a command for setting data for causing a printhead (or liquid discharge head) to perform predetermined processing and outputting (or generating) a control signal corresponding to the data set in accordance with the command. Claim 17 recites, inter alia, causing a first control unit to generate a command for setting data for acquiring specific information from information held by a printhead, and causing a second control unit to receive the generated command, access storage means of the printhead based on the data set in accordance with the command, and acquire the specific information corresponding to the command from the storage means.

The command is for setting data for performing processing or setting data for acquiring specific information from information held by the printhead. By way of example, and without limiting the claimed features, the command can include a memory address storing certain information or include setting information indicating a driving pulse width. Accordingly, a printhead or liquid discharge head that receives the command does not need a processor or the like, and the circuit of the printhead can be simplified.

Referring to Figure 16, for example, the command for setting data for causing the printhead to perform a predetermined process changes the settings in the printhead and the printhead merely performs a predetermined processing using the changed settings. The printhead does not require a data processor and the circuitry is simplified.

Barbour et al. relates to a system and method for controlling firing operations of an ink jet printhead. The printhead assembly includes a memory device and a distributive processor integrated with an ink driver head. More particularly, the printing system 100 of Barbour et al. includes a data processor 124, which communicates with a controller 110 and controls the driver head 126. As understood by Applicant, Barbour et al. utilizes the data processor in order to distribute a processor into the main body of the printing system 100 and the printhead 116. The printhead can perform processing, but the circuitry of the printhead is complicated.

Accordingly, Barbour et al. fails to disclose or suggest outputting or receiving a command for setting data for causing a printhead or discharge head to perform predetermined processing and generating or outputting a control signal corresponding to the data set in accordance with the command, as is recited in independent Claims 1, 9, 19

and 20. Nor does Barbour et al. disclose or suggest causing a first control unit to generate a command for setting data for acquiring specific information from information held by a printhead, and causing a second control unit to receive the generated command, access storage means of the printhead based on data set in accordance with the command, and acquire the specific information corresponding to the command from the storage means, as is recited in independent Claim 17.

Thus, Barbour et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited independent Claims 1, 9, 17, 19 and 20.

Independent Claims 16 and 21 are directed to an element base for a printhead or liquid discharge head and that includes, inter alia, reception means for receiving an externally input command and control means for performing control corresponding to the received command.

On the contrary, Barbour et al. discloses that in the printhead assembly 116, data processor 124 is separate from the driver head 126, which includes the drop generators. As understood by Applicants, Barbour et al. fails to disclose or suggest an element base including reception means for receiving an externally input command.

Thus, Barbour et al. also fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claims 16 and 21.

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 9, 16, 17 and 19-21 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

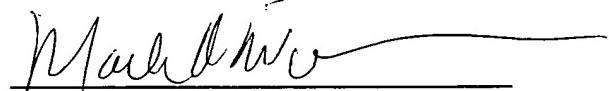
For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1, 9, 16, 17 and 19-21. Dependent Claims 2-8, 10-15 and 18 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims.

Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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